

coming of the whites, there were always traces of these dances present in this region. Of the clown, there seems to be here no trace, and, as already remarked, the entire dance system is simple and unsystematic. In place of the long, definitely arranged schedule of dances which existed among the Sacramento Valley Maidu, with their varied and elaborate decorations and rather complicated evolutions and imitations of various animals and birds, we have here no schedule at all, merely a single spring festival held out of doors. There is little elaboration of costume, there seems to be little or nothing in the way of representations of spiritual beings, and, except for the single case of the bear in the wě'dabōyem, no attempts at representing animals or birds. The Sweat dances, and the shamans' meetings, where the shamans conversed with the spirits, played the most prominent part, it would seem, in the ceremonial meetings of this section of the stock. More or less intermediate between this paucity of ceremonial here, and the abundance in the Sacramento Valley region, are the foot-hill people. Among them, although the shaman ceremonials were prominent and of importance, yet there was more of a scheme of ceremonies; and, although they had but a portion of the many dances known to the Chico people, yet they had more than did the mountain people. A more or less gradual transition; then, may be noted in regard to the dance organization of the Maidu, from a definite, elaborate, and extensive series of ceremonies among the western members, to an indefinite, simple, and brief series among the easternmost. From this standpoint, then, we have again evidence of the considerable degree of variation within the limits of this single stock,—a variation which characterizes nearly every feature of its culture, emphasizing again and again the extreme degree of variety which exists in the Californian area.

THE SECRET SOCIETY.—In discussing the various ceremonies of the Maidu, as well as in other connections, mention has been frequently made of the Secret Society. It remains to consider this very characteristic feature of the religious and social life of this people, before passing to a discussion of the mythology.